



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"



Tim Gallagher, Director

July 12, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

ATTN: Park Deputies

FROM: Tim Gallagher *b. m. jordan jr*
Director

SUBJECT: **DROWNING AT CASTAIC LAKE**

This is to report the tragic drowning yesterday, July 11, 2004, of a 12-year-old boy at the Castaic Lake Recreation Area. The youngster reportedly entered the south swim beach area at about 2:00 p.m., on his own. At about 4:15 p.m., family, we believe his God father, reported that he had not been seen for over two hours.

A search for the boy was initiated, both in the water and on land, including the restrooms, but was unsuccessful, although shoes identified as belonging to the boy were found near lifeguard tower number five.

After 5:30 p.m., when he still had not been located, a determination was made to close the swim beach early (normally open until 6:00 p.m.) so that a more thorough search of the water could be made. At 9:00 p.m., an underwater diver located the boy's body just outside the far end of the cordoned swim area, in 27 feet of water. There were no vital signs.

Sheriff's homicide and the medical examiner both responded to the scene.

The swim area was fully staffed with lifeguards, i.e., seven lake lifeguards manning the towers, walking the beach and on paddle boards, the same level of staffing as for the last two summers.

All of us at Parks and Recreation sincerely regret this tragic occurrence. We are investigating all aspects of the accident thoroughly.

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Phil Miller, County Counsel
Helen Parker, County Counsel